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UNITED STATES-CHINA RELATIONS PROGRAM
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May 28, 1980

Mr. Irv Drasnin
180 E. 79th Street
Apartment 10-D
New York, New York 10021

Dear Irv,

I'm writing with what I believe is an important, if unusual, request. As you well know, your CBS film "Misunderstanding China" has had a rather profound effect on American public opinion over the years, not only through TV but also through extensive use of the film version in schools, colleges, and public education organizations. Until recently, it had not occurred to me to ask what its possible impact might be within China. But this spring we have had a senior PRC journalist here at Stanford as a Professional Journalism Fellow, and he raised the question for me. (See attached bio-sheet on Guan Zaihan, which omits the fact that he spent a decade with the Foreign Ministry's Information Office.) In addition to his role in organizing the new English language daily to be published in Beijing, he is also associated with the Institute of Journalism of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. Consequently, he has wide access to media officials and "opinion makers" in China.

Guan recently attended an Education class here at Stanford in which "Misunderstanding China" was shown. He was fascinated and felt that the film demonstrated the kind of "self-criticism" that is sorely needed in China. He has asked whether it would be possible to obtain a print of the film for private (non-commercial) showings to colleagues in China. He is uncertain what their reaction will be, but considers the effort to be important. For my part, I believe that the kind of discussion the film could generate within the Ministry of Culture and its affiliated organizations would be of great importance for China and its perception of the U.S.

In this context, I'm writing to inquire whether CBS might be willing to donate a copy of the film for Mr. Guan's use in China. Although it would, of course, be appropriate to present it to him and/or his institution directly, alternatively we at Stanford could be the recipient (if this was preferable for tax deduction purposes) and make the gift from this end. Given Guan's personal connections within China, I'm confident that a gift of this sort by CBS would be widely known and appreciated in Beijing.

Since Guan hopes to see you when he is in New York (between June 26-July 3), you should be able to discuss the matter with him personally. In any event, I appreciate your willingness to explore this request with your associates at CBS.

All good wishes,

Sincerely,

Douglas Murray
Director